

Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai is actively functioning in Maharashtra since 1985 with inspiration from Architect of Maharashtra, Sri Yashwantrao Chavan's thoughts and initiatives. This institution has contributed in many sectors during its journey. The institution is working through its various departments to give direction to the development of different sections of the society and to increase the efficiency of developmental work. The institution is engaged in continuous efforts for dialogue and exchange between the government and different other sections of the society which would lead to concrete action.

For last 20 years, Navmaharashtra Yuva Abhiyan, a department of Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai is working with youth of Maharashtra. It lead to development of various program and gave committed workers for the society. However, it was felt that this work is not enough and there is a need for state to decide its policy for the largest group of population, youth, for their development and rights. The Abhiyan took lead in this direction and triggered discussion for Maharashtra State Youth Policy. Dialogue is started in this direction with institutions, organisation and experts working with youth.

In Maharashtra, youth in the age group 13 to 35 years constitutes nearly 42% of the population. Various developmental programs are organized for this large population group by government, semi-government, non-government organizations and educational institution. Youth are taking lead to form form Youth Groups and youth organizations and thereby exploring new avenues for their development. A need is strongly felt for coordination of these varied programs. In this situation, a holistic and all-inclusive youth policy can be assurance by the Government and society to youth for their development.

Navmaharashtra Yuva Andolan is on task considering this urgent need. We expect that that State Youth Policy should have the vision of a progressive society and at the same time it should give justice to the needs and aspirations of the youth of Maharashtra. With this expectation we are submitting a working draft to the State after consultation with different groups. We have got support from

various groups, institutions, organizations and scholars working with youth and I am very grateful to all these organizations and individuals.

A team of 100 committed youth is working constantly for State Youth Policy for last seven months. Policy recommendations are invited from 30 experts across Maharashtra who are working on different aspects of youths' concerns. 19 workshops are organized in different districts. Youth from diverse background have expressed themselves through these workshops. Participation of the groups such as boys, girls, students, non-students, urban, rural, tribal, dalit, minority, disabled and other marginalized groups are ensured. In this process 2000 youth have expressed their views and gave recommendations are writing and these are scientifically analyzed. Issues raised by youth and discussion on these issues were great learning for us. A drafting core team of 10 people working in the field of youth development research and also having experience of work with youth have compiled all these to form a holistic working draft of Maharashtra State Youth Policy.

We hope that this working draft of Maharashtra State Youth Policy will initiate exchange of thought in the society. We appeal to the people, people's representatives, media, institutions, social organizations to discuss this draft on various levels and to convey their feedback and suggestions to us by 25th November 2009. We hope that this draft will be more of a chance for wider discussion than just a document. A draft after consideration of suggestions from all the sectors of the society will be presented to the Honorable Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 12th January 2009 on the occasion of National Youth Day and a demand will be made to declare the state policy of the state. For this, we appeal to all to join efforts and to commit for the rise of New Maharashtra.

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1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. The state of Maharashtra, as its commitment to the youth, proposes this youth policy in the golden jubilee year of formation of the State. This policy is based on our faith in youth, their courage to dream a just social order, their willingness to question themselves and strive towards a society where pluralism, democracy, good governance, gender justice and social justice become an integral part of our social fabric.¹ It reaffirms the human rights perspective as an underlying philosophy and focusing on youth empowerment.
- 1.2. This is an inclusive policy, which recognizes diversity in gender, caste, class, religion, language, ableism and reiterates the commitment of the State to this vibrant and significant population group and looks at the challenges ahead, in terms of identifying and recognizing the specific needs, concerns and aspirations of the youth. The emphasis of this policy is to work **with** the youth rather than *for* the youth.

2. RATIONALE

- 2.1. India is a 'young' country with those between 13-35years, accounting for 40.6% of the total population [Census 2001]. The State appreciates the significant contribution of the National Youth Policy [2003] in acknowledging the importance of youth empowerment, and making certain constructive recommendations for the same. Since 2000, the Government of India has instituted policies for the wellbeing of the youth. The National Population Policy[2000],the Eleventh Five Year Plan [Planning Commission,2006], the Education Policy [2002]the National Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Strategy[2006] and the National Rural Health Mission [2005-12] are some of the policies and schemes which specifically mention the young people as those to be

included in these endeavors. The state of Maharashtra has already formulated Women policy, Industrial Policy, Agriculture Policy, Irrigation Policy, Employment and Self Employment Policy, Sports Policy, Tourism Policy, Child Development Policy and Information Technology Policy. In order to take cognizance of the youth population there is a need to link further the implementation of these policies, and consciously relate these to the concerns of the youth.

- 2.2. Maharashtra is one of the most developed states in the country. It is the second most populated state [97million and 9% of the country's population as per the 2001 census], and is projected to be 106 million by 2007 [office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2006]. Sex ratio of the state, in 2001, was 922. In 2001, 42.43% of state's population resided in urban areas. In 2001, 54.96 % of the labor force was in agriculture. In 2001, Maharashtra ranked fourth in the country on HDI with a score of 0.523. While analyzing the HDI at district level, backwardness of Vidharba (except for Nagpur) and Marathwada gets highlighted. The districts of Mumbai-city and suburbs, Thane, Raigad, Sindhudurg, Pune, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Nagpur scored above the state average HDI. No district in Vidharbha (except Nagpur) and Marathwada scored above the state average [GOM, 2002,b]. Maharashtra contributes 19% of India's industrial output, 15% of service sector output and 13% of India's GDP [Maharashtra Development Report, 2007].
- 2.3. In 2001, the youth population of Maharashtra was, 41,347,821 (42.68 % of total state population). Youth is not a homogenous group and can be categorized based on location (urban, rural, tribal); shelter (those with shelter, homeless); economic class (upper, middle, lower); gender (male, female and other sexual orientations) and role [student, non-student, employed, unemployed, parent and citizen]. There is a significant proportion of youth, who are socially marginalized. Globalization has accentuated the anxieties of youth.

¹ Critique of National Youth Policy (2004), National Youth Foundation

- 2.4. A separate state youth policy is necessary for a state like Maharashtra, especially in the golden jubilee year because:
 - 2.4.1. Youth is a critical stage in life but is full of insecurities, confusions and challenges. Societal norms exclude youth from participating in family and public level decision making.
 - 2.4.2. State has indirectly focused on youth while framing certain policies on education, employment and social justice but not considered "youth-hood" as the basis.
 - 2.4.3. Abundant creative energies and talents of youth are neither fully tapped by society nor realized by the youth themselves resulting in detrimental effect on self as well as society. Inclusion of this nearly 43% of the state populace, while framing policies would be a great asset to the state.
 - 2.4.4. It is imperative to demonstrate, in action, the intent of considering youth as priority; enable youth empowerment through strategic direction and to address, in a holistic manner, all the issues concerning youth.

3. DEFINITION OF YOUTH

- 3.1. This policy recognizes that youth is a phase in life. This phase of "youth-hood" comprises not only a physical and psychological change but also role change in family and social life. Geographic, gender, social and cultural diversities prevailing in the society make it complex to assign an unambiguous age-range to define "youth".
- 3.2. In consonance with the National Youth Policy (2003) of India, this Maharashtra State Youth Policy defines youth as all human beings in the age group of 13 to 35 years.
- 3.3. As acknowledged by the National Youth Policy (2003), this policy also recognizes that 13 to 35 years is a wide range of age group for youth,

hence needs to be further divided into two sub-groups viz. adolescents (13 to 19 age-group) and young adults (20 to 35 age-group).

- 3.4. This state policy wants to note here that priority should be more on adolescents and young adults in the 20 to 30 age group. In order to overcome structural marginalization existing in our society, this state policy proposes that young adults in the 30 to 35 age group, who are in difficult circumstances, marginalized and drop out youth who lost the first chance of development should also be included as youth. However, inclusion of young adults in the 30 to 35 age group as youth needs to be debated and eventually reviewed.

4. VALUES

The policy reaffirms the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Youth Empowerment is the approach of this policy with following core values:

- 4.1. Gender equity:** Status and opportunities irrespective of sex, gender and sexual orientation.
- 4.2. Youth Participation:** Youth' right to participate in decision making concerning them and the society.
- 4.3. Inclusiveness:** Equitable opportunities for all, emphasizing on rights of socially, economically, politically and culturally marginalized groups to live in dignity.
- 4.4. Respect Diversity:** Respect for cultural, spiritual, linguistic and religious diversities as a basic tenet of development.
- 4.5. Sustainability:** Harmonious lifestyle with nature meeting needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- 4.6. Accountability:** Responsibility and answerability to youth and that of youth towards society.

5. RIGHTS OF YOUTH

This policy is based on human rights perspective and enables realization of following rights:

- 5.1. Right to citizenship of the country and access and avail off the fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution of India.
- 5.2. Right to participate in decision making as well as various programs for self and society's development.
- 5.3. Right to enabling environment and equal opportunities to access and quality education.
- 5.4. Right to livelihood in order to lead a dignified life.
- 5.5. Right to organize and participate in democratic, autonomous student and non-student organizations and governance mechanisms.
- 5.6. Right to live healthy life and clean environment.
- 5.7. Right to exercise choice in their sexual and reproductive life.
- 5.8. Right to be protected from all forms of discrimination, abuse and exploitation.

6. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH

This policy recognizes that youth have an important role to play in society's development; hence in addition to the rights of youth, the following responsibilities and duties of the youth have been put forth:

- 6.1. To promote peace, security and development.
- 6.2. To promote human dignity and respect for all.
- 6.3. To contribute in building a society free from all forms of violence, crime, discrimination and exploitation.
- 6.4. To appreciate and respect diverse cultures, languages, religions and political affiliations.
- 6.5. To contribute constructively to the development process through national and state services, community service and voluntary endeavors.

- 6.6. To respect public property and the properties of others.
- 6.7. To be sensitive to ecological balance and protect and preserve the same.
- 6.8. To be a responsible citizen.

7. STATE'S AND SOCIETY'S OBLIGATIONS

- 7.1. This policy recognizes the obligations of the state and society to support youth for their physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. It is also expected that adults' act as a positive role model to youth in society and encourage their participation in community life. This policy also expects the society to assist youth not only in realization of their goals and full potential but also view youth as equal partners in development process of today, rather than as leaders of tomorrow.

8. VISION

This youth policy envisages a society where youth are self-reliant, empowered, instilled with values of equity and social justice and are committed to the spirit of volunteerism and holistic development of the state and society.

9. MISSION

To create an enabling environment for youth to realize their rights and potentials so as to contribute in self and society's development as productive, healthy and responsible citizens, committed to the values of equity and social justice.

10. OBJECTIVES

- 10.1. To enable youth to access rights and entitlements regardless of their creed, caste, class, gender, geographic location and level of ability.

- 10.2. To ensure access to quality education, health, livelihood, housing and recreational facilities for youth.
- 10.3. To develop decision making, democratic participation, rational thinking and leadership capacities of youth.
- 10.4. To create opportunities for realizing the aspirations, needs and concerns of youth.
- 10.5. To reduce vulnerabilities of youth and facilitate creation of support systems in order to provide a second chance to youth.
- 10.6. To encourage and promote volunteerism and participation of youth in state and the national development including planning, decision making and implementation of all development programs initiated by government and civil society.
- 10.7. To develop an integrated and multi-sector coordination, support systems and response mechanisms in order to address issues concerning youth.

11. PRIORITY AREAS

Youth empowerment is a multi-faceted process dealing with diverse aspects of youth's life; hence this policy prioritizes the following key youth concerns:

- Education
- Training and Skill development
- Livelihood
- Social security
- Health and lifestyle
- Environment
- Recreation and Sports
- Arts and Culture
- Science and Technology
- Citizenship and Participation

12. PRIORITIZATION OF YOUTH PROFILES

The policy recommends special focus on the following youth:

- Female Youth
- Youth from inaccessible areas
- Tribal Youth
- Youth from urban slums, pavements, street and homeless youth
- Youth drop outs from formal schooling
- Youth with Disabilities
- Socially stigmatized youth, for example, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender)
- Youth under especially difficult circumstances like victims of trafficking, wards of criminals, adolescents and young adults in conflict with law.

13. EDUCATION

Next to the family as an informal system for inculcating education for life and living, the formal education system is a major socializing agent in the life of children and youth. The education levels in Maharashtra are higher than in India as a whole, and the gender differentials in enrolment are relatively narrow. Maharashtra ranks fifth in the country in terms of literacy yet, there are certain groups such as seasonal migrant children and youth who lack assured access to the formal education system. There is almost universal enrollment in primary education but high rate of drop out at secondary and tertiary stages. However, this policy recognizes that various sections of youth mentioned in section 11 are still out of the purview of higher education. This policy provides directives on enhancing access and quality.

Policy directives

- 13.1. Take up measures to ensure that the constitutional obligation of fundamental right of education to all is available to all children and youth of the state.
- 13.2. In order to overcome the prevalent high drop out rate at secondary and tertiary education stage, state should provide greater impetus to provide for secondary schools and colleges of tertiary education.
- 13.3. Special efforts should be taken to reach out to vulnerable and marginalized groups and ensure equitable access to education through scholarships, freeships and hostel facilities. The policy recommends that state should review scholarship amount periodically.
- 13.4 State should ensure inclusion of disabled youth in mainstream education.
- 13.5. State should provide a second chance to those youth who were unable to complete their education.
- 13.6. State should provide for and encourage students to take up subjects from diverse streams during tertiary education.
- 13.7. State should provide for non-formal education programs for non-student youth and entry points need to be created to enable these youth to participate in formal education system.
- 13.8. State should ensure that latest developments in technology on information and communication are integrated in academic courses and youth (both student and non-student) have access to these courses.
- 13.9. SCERT (State Council for Education Research and Training) and equivalent institutions should continue to review and upgrade curricula for various levels of education. This course up gradation should be based on contextual flexibility, promoting values and understanding needs of youth.
- 13.10. State should ensure that education courses promote scientific temperament, experience-based learning, environmental consciousness, increased learning of vocational trades and respect for indigenous knowledge systems.

- 13.11 The state should ensure inclusion of Life Skills Education including sex education as part of curriculum in schools and colleges.
- 13.12. State should ensure equivalence in various educational systems and standards prevalent in the state.
- 13.13. State should promote formation of an apex body at the state level to establish standards for quality of tertiary education and quantum of educational institutions and for monitoring of the same.
- 13.14. State should ensure the effectiveness of teachers through relevant training and provision of qualified teachers, who are not only subject matter experts but also are well versed in holistic education and youth-centric pedagogy.
- 13.15. State should evolve standards and regulatory mechanisms for governing private sector coaching classes.
- 13.16. The state should ensure that every educational institute should have sexual harassment redressal committee and SC/ST Cell as mandated by the law. The policy also recommends that every educational institution should constitute a center for personal counseling, career guidance and grievance redressal cell.
- 13.17. The policy recommends stringent monitoring and implementation of the law with reference to ragging and eve teasing and violence.

14. TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

At present, formal education structure is mostly knowledge based (cognitive-skills) and restricts the scope for acquiring new skills (psychomotor / specialized) and does not develop professional attitudes. It is observed that career pathways and means of possible livelihood are usually de-linked from the formal education base and limits opportunities for change in career pathways, whenever desired. Further, in the present era of globalization managerial skills, holistic approaches, multidisciplinary skills, inter-sector applicability skills, personality enhancement skills have emerged as common professional skills

essential for quality human development. In this context, it is essential to strengthen the training and skills' development of youth.

Policy directives

- 14.1. State should create a mechanism that will enable youth to acquire skills consistently, in all relevant professions with a formal education base and in all work-stations, for those without a formal education base.
- 14.2. State should establish a "Maharashtra Skills Development Institute". This institute should be linked with the newly established National Skills Development Organization and National Knowledge Commission of Govt. of India.
- 14.3. The training & skill development program should include fundamental skills development training, which is cross-cutting and beneficial in all technical & non-technical, managerial, non-managerial and self entrepreneurship sectors in response to the current developmental stage of the state.
- 14.4. Existing institutions like ITI (Industrial Training Institutions), DIC (District Industrial Centre) and MCED (Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development) should be revamped and focus should be equipping youth with entrepreneurial and "market-relevant skills". This revamp may be through public-private partnership, not only to ensure resource generation but also to create a role for the private sector in need-based curriculum development, at these institutions, thereby enhancing chances of placement on completion of course.
- 14.5. This policy recognizes the importance of provision of appropriate stipend to youth, as prioritized in section 11 above, for participating in the training and skill development programs.
- 14.6. Skills and entrepreneurship development courses should be so designed as to be inclusive and useful for illiterate, semi-literate and differently-abled youth.

- 14.7. Curriculum development and module preparation for training and skills development should be evolved on clearly determined learning objectives and quality parameters.
- 14.8. Training and skill development process should be ongoing and should be decentralized in order to include locally relevant needs.
- 14.9. State should encourage and support NGOs in conducting skills development courses.
- 14.10. Youth, successfully completing training and / or skills development course, should be recognized and supported in self-entrepreneurship by formal banking and financial system as well government.
- 14.11. Data base of trained youth should be maintained, regularly, at district and state and widely disseminated by government for utilization by prospective employers.
- 14.12. State should take special steps to ensure skill building of female youth in tune with the changing socio-economic and cultural realities. Scope in existing skill building programs should be explored and if required, new courses should be designed.
- 14.13. Youth training and skills development should also include enhancement of self awareness, communication skills, negotiation skills, team spirit, emotional intelligence, develop values and train the youth to plan ahead.

15. LIVELIHOOD

The onus of the state is not only to create enabling and conducive environment for employment and livelihood opportunities but also to equip the youth in accessing and availing the opportunities created. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure that poor families are not forced to engage their children to start working at an early age. State shall endeavor to ensure access to skills' enhancement, finance / credit and "level playing field" in order to ensure social protection and minimize vulnerability of youth.

Policy directives

- 15.1. Evolvement of a, 5-year, "Maharashtra State Youth Livelihood Action Plan". Such an action plan should be evolved every five years after evaluating the efficiency and efficacy of execution of the earlier five-year plan. A special task force should be constituted for evolving these five-year action plans.
- 15.2. The role of existing Employment Exchanges should be reviewed and future course of action of should be recommended for ensuring maximum employment opportunities for youth.
- 15.3. All the varied schemes and programs promoting employment and self employment should be clubbed under the 'Employment and Self Employment' Ministry. It should ensure ease in availing of these schemes by youth without tedious and time consuming procedures through "single-window" approach.
- 15.4. State should identify specific society's needs, which could be catered to by generating employment opportunities for the youth.
- 15.5. State should tap the employment creation potential at village level and make effective use of technological developments in order to create livelihood opportunities for youth at village / local level so as to ensure employment availability near place of residence. State should also encourage the private sector to participate in this employment creation at village level.
- 15.6. State should promote dignity of labor in all professions and ensure that wages are provided to all, especially youth, at least as per the Minimum Wages Act. It is further recommended here that, state government should revise the wage rate as recommended by government of India. This wage rate should be periodically revised, to cover for inflation, based on select criteria like cost of living index.
- 15.7. Constitute a Task Force on "Identifying Gaps in Skills of Youth" based on the existing educational courses offered in the state and the requirements

- of various sectors, especially agriculture, industry and tertiary. Special focus should be accorded on identifying the gaps in skills of youth from the point of employability in the service sector.
- 15.8. State should promote the "earn and learn" approach and encourage desirous youth to start working part-time while in college. State should enable this by creating opportunities and influencing universities to restructure courses.
 - 15.9. Enabling the access to and availing off institutional credit and finance by youth interested in self-employment. Due preference should be given to those youth who have been trained at the proposed "Maharashtra State Skills Training Institute". Special efforts should be explored for promoting micro finance and micro credit avenues for youth, especially youth.
 - 15.10. Presently, there has been an uncontrolled proliferation of jobs for youth mainly in temporary, low-skilled and low-paid jobs. State should take proactive steps to regularize these employment opportunities and special provisions should be made for those youth working in the unorganized sector. Emphasis, of these provisions, should be on creating avenues for "continuity" in service sector jobs.
 - 15.11. Emphasis should also be placed on creating an enabling environment of mobility across job profiles within the service sector or across all sectors.
 - 15.12. Career counseling and guidance centers should be developed at tehsil level by the state. NGOs should also be encouraged and supported to start such centers.
 - 15.13. This policy is sensitive to the agrarian crisis in Maharashtra. In order to stem this crisis, State should promote agriculture and allied professions as attractive career opportunities for youth. Youth should be encouraged to be self-employed in agriculture-based industries like food processing and packaging, warehousing and transportation and agro-eco-tourism.

- 15.14. Agriculture research centers focusing on development in agronomical practices, organic / natural farming and scientific farming should be established at division level.
- 15.15. Financial and / or in-kind incentives should be given to those farmers, especially youth, who are practicing rain-fed agriculture without access to irrigation in order to encourage the continuity of these farmers in agriculture and make agriculture a profitable and gainful means of livelihood for them.
- 15.16. This policy recognizes and acknowledges the productive contribution of housework in family economy by young women, hence recommends that a committee should be constituted to study the productive contribution of young women in the family's economy and understand the means of sharing of assets and power equitably with women.
- 15.17. This policy recognizes importance of affirmative actions in employment for youth, as referred in section 11 above.
- 15.18. This policy, recognizing the pioneering role of Maharashtra in bringing in a Rural Employment Guarantee Act, recommends the exploration of its applicability in the urban settings.
- 15.19. Youth should be provided with specific roles and responsibilities in the Maharashtra Rural Employment Guarantee Act with reference to motivating participation of laborers as well as planning, monitoring and social audit of actual work done.
- 15.20. All work spaces should facilitate mobility and access for differently abled persons.
- 15.21. State should reserve space, during town planning, in commercial zones for youth starting self employment enterprises.
- 15.22. Cooperative schemes, involving self help groups of youth, in the production and marketing of goods and services should be encouraged and strengthened with government support. Collateral linkages with government and private organizations should be strengthened for the same.

16. SOCIAL SECURITY

Marginalized groups in general and youth in specific are excluded from opportunities, therefore it is the responsibility of state to not only correct these structural and societal flaws but also to erect a safety net. Many studies and researches point out the frustrations of youth emanating out of the lack of direction, opportunities and recognition. Conscious efforts are necessary to obliterate the ill-effects of non-inclusive perspective towards youth.

Policy directives

- 16.1. State should undertake "Mapping of Youth Mobility" (in, out and within the state) on a regular basis and designing policies taking into consideration these youth mobility patterns.
- 16.2. According to the proposed Social Security Bill by Government of India, 92% of workforce works in the unorganized sector. In order to ensure social security for these workers, this policy recommends the following-
 - 16.2.1. Workers in unorganized sectors, especially youth should be enabled and protected through social safety nets like provident fund, maternity leave, accident compensation etc. These workers should be brought under the ambit of existing legislations like the Labor Welfare Act.
 - 16.2.2. Identity cards should be issued to all the workers in unorganized sector, especially youth. The unique identification program of government of India should include this component.
 - 16.2.3. Basic amenities should be provided to workers in the unorganized sectors at the site of work as well as locations of seeking work. Responsibility of providing these amenities should lie on employer / organization providing work but onus lies on state to ensure that requisite amenities are provided for. State

should raise resources for bearing partial cost of these amenities by levying a specific tax or surcharge.

- 16.3. Local Self Governance Institutions should play an increasing role in ensuring social security for youth. This role should be augmented by creating a "Social Security Fund for Youth" at each level of Local Self Governance Institutions. Resources for this "Fund" should be provided by state, employer and direct contribution by the youth as in public provident fund. This "Fund" should be utilized for paying of health insurance premium for youth (and their dependants). A "Youth Health Insurance Scheme" should be evolved on the lines of the "*Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana*" and / or community-based insurance schemes.
- 16.4. State should ensure that youth are protected from all forms of abuse at the workplace including physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse.
- 16.5. This policy recommends observance of ergonomic principles and high standards for work safety are maintained by the employer at workplaces and state should ensure that adequate measures are taken to maintain these standards.
- 16.6. State should ensure that youth are provided with adequate leisure time, weekly off, national holidays and other relaxations to lead active social life.
- 16.7. State should constitute a task force to look into the issue of social security for unemployed youth.
- 16.8. An enabling and encouraging environment should be created by the state in order to enhance social cohesion amongst youth. This should be ensured by fostering development of social capital, a sense of belonging and connection, identity and self-esteem amongst youth.
- 16.9. Steps should be taken by the state to minimize inter-generational gaps and conflicts. NGOs should be encouraged and supported to take a proactive role for this.

- 16.10. Need-based hostels for students and working youth should be developed and managed professionally in order to overcome the issue of lack of availability of decent place for temporary residence.
- 16.11. State should ensure social security for all those who are vulnerable to and / or face natural and human-made disasters.
- 16.12. State should support traditional professions, which are under threat of extinction due to changing social, economic, cultural and political scenario. Specific support systems and enabling mechanisms should be developed for the protection of the same.

17. HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE

Health is a state of physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing and not merely absence of disease or infirmity². Youth is characterized as enthusiastic, vibrant, impatient, restless and indulging in risk taking behavior; thus susceptible to a wide range of morbidities and health deviations. This requires holistic approach towards health comprising universal access, equitable distribution, local community involvement, use of appropriate technology and accountability to youth. Hence, the youth policy must meaningfully utilize health component for overall socio-economic development of youth.

Policy Directives:

- 17.1. State should functionally mould the primary health care system to be gender sensitive, youth friendly and responsive to the felt needs of the youth.
- 17.2. State should create opportunities for youth as motivators, peer educators, link workers, health messengers, facilitators, coordinators at all levels in implementation of national health programs.

² Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946

- 17.3. State should promote the concept of 'Health Guards' so as to develop a volunteer base for relief and rehabilitation during disasters and epidemics. These health guards should have "hands on" training in public health management with flexible minimum eligibility criteria.
- 17.4. Awards should be constituted, for youth, in recognition and accreditation of achievements in management of health programs.
- 17.5. State should link, coordinate and participate with the component activities of other National Health Programs and alternative systems of medicine.
- 17.6. Baseline health data, including risk behavior patterns of youth, as 'Health Census' up to village level should be compiled, collated and published on a regular basis for accuracy in planning and implementation of health programs.
- 17.7. The Health Care System should be enabled to be responsive to the health needs of the youth and initiate appropriate health interventions for the same.
- 17.8. Youth centered programs promoting mental, social and spiritual health and "Life Skills Education" should be developed in view of the special needs of youth through the primary health care system.
- 17.9. State should ensure that reproductive rights of young girls are protected and are enabled to take decisions regarding their reproductive health.
- 17.10. State should conduct regular studies to map nutritional status of youth, especially young women and adolescents and take corrective measures including strengthening the Public Distribution System.
- 17.11. State should establish counseling centers at PHC level as well as virtual counseling centers wherever feasible. State should establish de-addiction and rehabilitation as well as trauma and rehabilitative care centers at tehsil level.
- 17.12. State should involve school and college level teachers in health promotion and disease prevention activities and train to identify learning disabilities, early warning signs of ill-health, common psychological deviations and suicidal tendencies

- 17.13. State should provide incentives for delaying the age of marriage and age of first pregnancy.

18. ENVIRONMENT

The environmental deterioration has caused a major concern for young people world over. The natural environment must be maintained and preserved for the present and future generations. For this environmentally friendly use of natural resources should be promoted to improve better quality of life. Increasing the participation of youth in environmental protection depends on strengthening opportunities for young people to participate in the decision-making of government-supported organizations and NGOs. Considering the importance of community involvement in preservation of the environment, the state such policies to encourages young people to play an increasingly significant role in mobilizing the public, at large, in this endeavour.

Policy directives

- 18.1. Motivating young people to promote nature clubs in villages, towns and schools and colleges to create awareness about the protection of environment.
- 18.2. Support and also encourage Environmental youth groups and NGOs in planning environmental projection.
- 18.3. Encourage more agro forestry and agro based business to youth clubs and youth organizations.
- 18.4. Encourage youth clubs, and youth organizations to protect water bodies, water harvesting.
- 18.5. Training programmes should be provided to inform teachers of the environmental aspects of their subject-matter and to enable them to educate youth concerning environmentally friendly habits and inculcate environmental values.

- 18.6. Strengthening participation of youth in the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment especially in the villages and tribal areas as a process of livelihood program.
- 18.7. Enhancing the role of the media as a tool for widespread dissemination of environmental issues to youth as well as activities of the youth.
- 18.8. Involve youth in the Green Rating Project (GRP) of their village, school, college as well as educational institutions and also the town and city on the basis of their environment friendliness.

19. RECREATION AND SPORTS

Engagement in recreation and sports is a key characteristic of youth hood. It is also important component for overall development of youth and thus major concern for human resource development. Above all, youth have right to rest and leisure and access to opportunities for entertainment and sports.

Policy Directives

- 19.1. All formal educational institutions and non-formal education and bridge courses should have adequate facilities for sports and recreation.
- 19.2. At least one-fifth of the time spent by a student in an educational institution should be earmarked for outdoor and / or co-curricular activities.
- 19.3. The state should recognize the community youth groups as a basic unit for entertainment and sports activities and a state level program to support such youth groups should be developed. Special efforts should be made to increase female participation in youth club and establishment of youth clubs of young girls.
- 19.4. Provision of community spaces and access to such community spaces by youth should be ensured at village and at urban community level by the town planning department. Local self government institutions should be

- responsible for planning and implementation of comprehensive programs for entertainment and sports. A committee should be formed at district level for monitoring activities under this head with adequate representation of youth. Special efforts should be made to avail community spaces for young girls at village and community level.
- 19.5. State should motivate and support should be provided to youth clubs for local theatre, street theatre, open theatre and cultural groups.
 - 19.6. To ensure that at least one playground per 1000 population provision to be made for common play grounds in the master plans of all civic and municipal areas and rural areas.
 - 19.7. Geographically disadvantaged areas would be extended additional support for the promotion of sports and games.
 - 19.8. Cultural youth events should be organized at village and / or urban level annually. Efforts should be made to increase participation of non-student youth.
 - 19.9. Youth Hostels should be constructed at district level and be made available for youth who are participating in inter-college entertainment, cultural and sports activities. The hostel should also be used for youth under youth exchange programs.
 - 19.10. State should promote indigenous and other sports and role of NGOs should be encouraged in this.

20. ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and culture is the basis of society's enrichment. It is felt that government should not interfere in deciding about arts and culture but government should definitely play a facilitation role to encourage all forms of arts and culture. In line with the Indian Constitutional priorities, arts and culture should be encouraged. This policy creates spaces for young persons to critically engage with our cultural heritage in order to conserve those aspects which are

conducive to social justice and discard those aspects that impede equity and dignity for all (NYF critique of NYP point 2.9).

Policy directives

- 20.1. State should endeavor to create and evolve a youth appreciative of cultural diversity in Maharashtra and India and is aware and conscious of the same while respecting the same.
- 20.2. Culture is the basis of society's formation and evolution. Agriculture has played an important role in this evolution; hence the state should strive for promoting and encouraging agrarian as well as diverse cultures. State should encourage agro-tourism in order to promote agriculture.
- 20.3. Youth exchange programs should be undertaken, by the state as well as NGOs, to promote understanding and appreciation of Maharashtra's cultural diversity.
- 20.4. All schemes and programs promoted by *Sahitya Sanskruti Mandal* should be reviewed and redesigned to encourage youth litterateurs.
- 20.5. Role for youth expressions should be ensured and participation of youth should be recognized in the proposed Maharashtra state Cultural Policy.
- 20.6. Rural *Jatras* and *Yatras* are platforms for socio-economic and cultural exchanges hence these should be encouraged and supported by government.
- 20.7. A separate subject on arts and culture in schools and colleges should be included as part of regular curriculum.
- 20.8. Separate departments exist for promotion of arts and culture in universities at present. Avenues for creating employment opportunities should be explored, for those specializing in arts and culture.
- 20.9. Spaces for art and cultural exchange such as art galleries, amphitheatres, libraries and halls should be opened at local level. Focus of these art exchanges should be more on youth.

- 20.10. Cultural centers on the lines of *Lalit Kala Kendra* should be developed at tehsil level where participation of youth is encouraged in the same. Audio-visual libraries for promoting all forms of performing arts, especially traditional, folk and classical music should be developed at these cultural centers.
- 20.11. Workshops and seminars should be organized at state level for fine and performing arts in order to encourage creation of youth artists and performers at state level.
- 20.12. Information about all initiatives and schemes taken up by Department of Cultural Affairs should be disseminated to all youth.

21. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the 21st century world and especially Maharashtra is rapidly moving towards adapting technology as part of daily life. However, disparity will increase if majority youth are not in the know of latest development in technology. This policy recognizes that youth are the major conductors of new ideas and innovations hence put forth following directives.

Policy Directive

- 21.1. The state should ensure scientific outlook and temperament amongst the youth to enable them to think more rationally and utilize their time and energy for more constructive matters.
- 21.2. State should conduct a review of formal and non formal education curricula in order to suggest changes so as to make learning of science popular and enjoyable.
- 21.3. This policy recognizes the importance of use of information technology in all domains of life including government sector and recommends the use of "Unicode software", a software developed by C-DAC (Centralized

- Diploma in Applied Computing) to enable uniform use of Marathi language in computer, by the state.
- 21.4. State should constitute a task force to explore avenues for adoption of computer applications in day to day administrative work and minimize the use of paper.
 - 21.5. The state should encourage the role of NGOs in spreading awareness on scientific temperament and outlook amongst the youth.
 - 21.6. State should provide for establishment of science centers at tehsil level in partnership with NGOs and private sectors.

22. CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Youth are the key citizens of any state hence they should participate in development of the state. Youth are valuable members of the community so should not only be engaged in activities and programs that encourage and develop informed decision-making, skills development and leadership abilities but also should be encouraged to contribute through meaningful participation opportunities. Ultimately, it is important to develop and enable youth to become responsible parents and engage as responsible citizens. This policy recognizes the contribution of and role played by the civil society in promoting awareness on youth issues and citizenship amongst youth.

Policy Directives

- 22.1. State should reserve one-third seats for youth in all local self government institutions, within existing reservation of seats.
- 22.2. State should set up a committee to review all existing Acts in order to explore the role of youth in governance and management structures of organizations registered under these Acts.

- 22.3. Enhance understanding and awareness of youth in promoting volunteerism, adopting democratic principles and engaging themselves as responsible citizens.
- 22.4. State should promote research on issues and paradigms influencing youth and their development.
- 22.5. The trend of declining participation of youth in civil society initiatives and voting during elections is alarming since this inhibits the strengthening of democracy. This trend should be reversed through special campaigns, NSS camps, NYK initiatives and support of awareness activities taken up by NGOs and CBOs. Linkages with the initiatives undertaken by the State Election Commission should be established.
- 22.6. "Youth Councils" should be evolved by NGOs and supported by government at tehsil, district and state level. The purpose of these youth councils is to participate in formulation of government policies and the implementation of the same.
- 22.7. "Annual Youth Debate Competition" should be held at tehsil, district, division and state level to foster wider qualitative discussion on existing youth schemes and entitlements focusing on approach and implementation mechanisms and practical experience.
- 22.8. Participation of the local resident youth in quality control of civic works taken up at ward level should be insisted upon. There should be a clearly defined active role for youth in managing basic public utilities like playground, public-park, common-land, overseeing of waste management and maintenance of electricity lines, water supply pipelines, sewage and drainage systems.
- 22.9. State should create an enabling environment to encourage participation, of youth at risk, in decision making at village level. This shall help in re-integrating these youth into society.

23. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

- 23.1. The objectives of youth policy can not be achieved in isolation by any one ministry or department considering its holistic spectrum, access, across the ministries. To ensure equity, proactive youth participation and to promote youth friendly appropriate technologies, it is essential to have common apex ministry of coordination at state level, to converge, channel, implement, monitor & evaluate impact of all policy-centered projects at state level. The activities under youth policy can thus be coordinated by this independent ministry. This state coordination ministry should have cabinet status, and preferably headed by senior administrators and technical personnel, with delegated powers of the level of Additional Chief Secretary. The **Ministry of Coordination** should have separate budget for monitoring, evaluation & day to day supervision of implementation process, with the other respective ministries, accountable to this Ministry of Coordination. The Ministry of Coordination will work in close liaison with the State Planning Commission to provide necessary feedback of the policy implications. For administrative feasibility, this Ministry of Coordination should draw its strength from Ministry of Finance, Youth Affairs & Sports, Health, Education, Industry, Agriculture, Social Welfare and Ministry of Women & Child Welfare.
- 23.2. This policy reiterates the need for creative thinking and micro-planning by all concerned ministries to provide inputs for youth development. Further, the schemes and programs in all ministries should be evolved or have provision for youth participation in their programs.
- 23.3. Regulation of youth policy demands formation of an autonomous State Youth Commission. This Commission should regulate implementation of youth policy. It is recommended here that representation from academia, administration and NGOs working on youth issues is essential on this Commission.

- 23.4. "District Youth Centers" should be formed to co-ordinate various initiatives under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, who will coordinate the convergence of youth development programs at district level. An official of rank of Deputy Collector should be in charge of this district level youth centre. These youth centers should act as the nodal unit for implementation at district level.
- 23.5. Youth clubs/cooperatives should be encouraged and supported at village/ward level and be involved in the various initiatives under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. These youth clubs should be the nodal platform to implement various initiatives undertaken at the village level by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

24. REGULATION OF YOUTH POLICY

- 24.1 A "State Youth Commission" having quasi-judicial power should be constituted. This commission should consist of varied stakeholders viz. civil society representatives, academicians, social scientists, legal experts and people engaged in youth work. Inclusion of representatives from marginalized and underprivileged sections of society should be ensured.
- 24.2 Role of this commission is to be a regulator for this state youth policy. This youth commission should undertake the following key responsibilities:
- 24.2.1 Monitor, Review and Evaluate the implementation and impact of this youth policy.
 - 24.2.2. Issue directives to concerned ministries and institutions for effective implementation of youth policy and programs.
 - 24.2.3. To act as a grievance redressal cell for youth issues.
 - 24.2.4. To provide cooperative and collaborative support to consultative sub-committees, monitoring units and nominated advisors to ensure effective implementation of this policy.

- 24.2.5. Commission would promote research pertaining to youth issues and paradigms on a regular basis.
- 24.2.6. Commission would issue directives during policy formulation of various ministries and ensure budgetary allocation in the interests of youth development.

25. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 25.1. This policy recommends outcome-based monitoring and evaluation of all initiatives undertaken under this policy. Monitoring of the policy programs should be undertaken biannually through analysis of monthly reports submitted by concerned stake holders. Intention behind this monitoring should be to provide inputs for effective program implementation and facilitation in achievement of proposed results. Youth Commission should play an important role in this monitoring process. A consultative sub-committee comprising government officials and representatives from civil society and youth clubs should be formed for this purpose.
- 25.2. Evaluation should be undertaken every three years. Evaluation indicators should be based on extent of achieving objectives and effectiveness in relation to the priority elements of the policy.
- 25.3. "Youth Development Report" should be developed every year by the appropriate department at tehsil, district, division and state level. These reports should be based on the monitoring (and evaluation) findings.

26. CHALLENGES

This policy could face the following challenges:

- 26.1. This youth policy will be effectively implemented only if it is conceptually "mainstreamed" in all developmental sectors.
- 26.2. Lack of wider political will and consensus for acceptance of the separate youth policy.

- 26.3. Expected implementation structures as directed in the policy would be subject to *red-tapism*. Implementation of the policy might not get due priority.
- 26.4. Resource allocation is key for success of any policy thus lack of resources could prove to be a major implementation hurdle.
- 26.5. Participation by youth would show variance depending on their context.
- 26.6. For the successful implementation of the policy it is important to work with adults in family and social life. Their non co-operation and resistance to share and give up space and power in decision making may create barriers in the implementation process.
- 26.7. Youth policy can not do away with or substitute the expanding private sector and commercialization of leisure-time and related activities of youth.

27. REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed five years after declaration to gain practical insights in achievements of various components proposed in the policy and consider requisite refinement for future policy implementation.

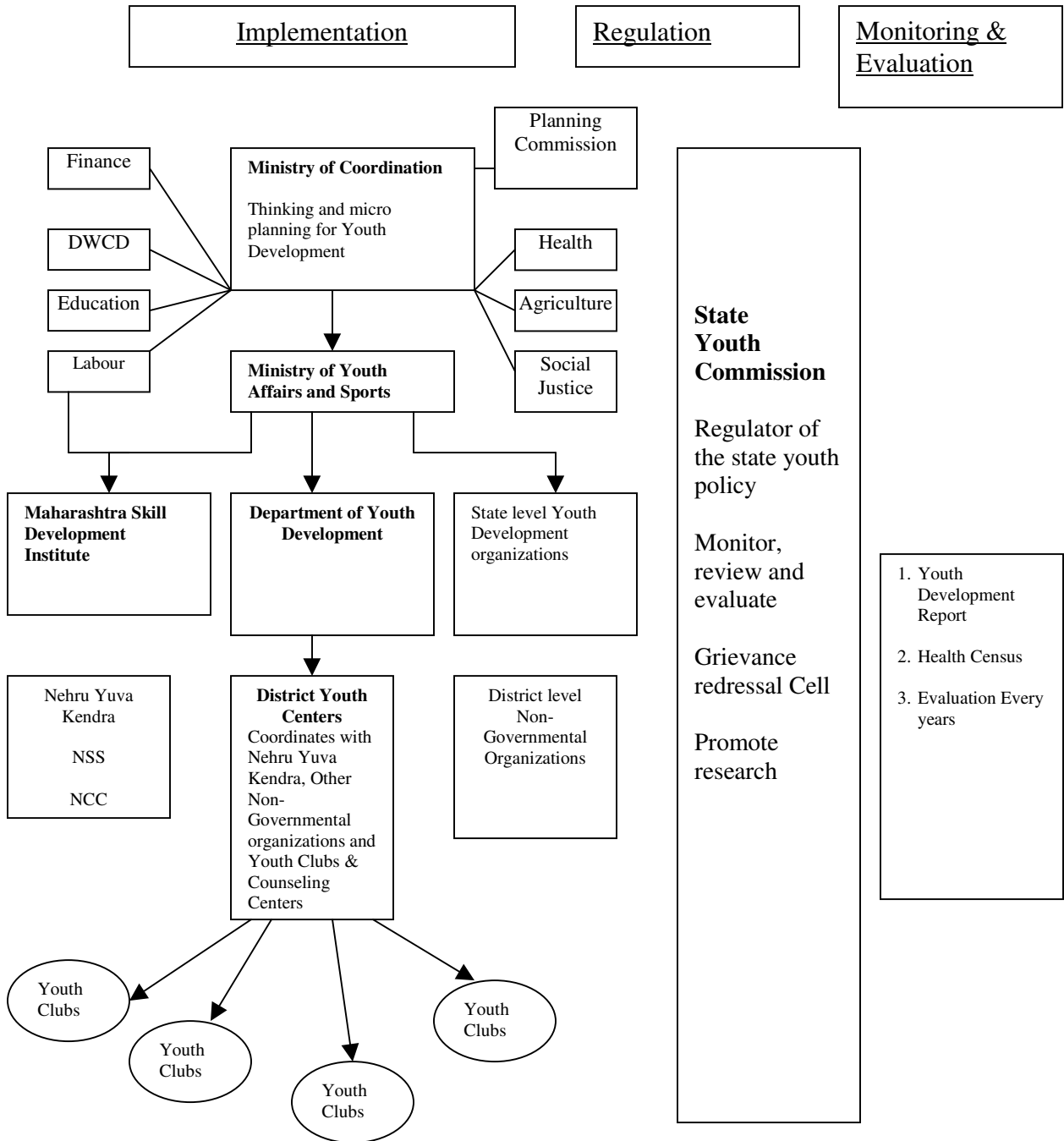
28. ANNEXURE (I) : ACTION PLAN

This policy recommends the following action plan so as to translate the policy directives into reality:

- 28.1. Name of the existing "Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs" should be changed to that of "Youth Development Ministry". This is necessary in order to change the orientation of the existing Ministry from working in "welfare" mode to that of "empowering youth" mode.
- 28.2. Two separate departments should be constituted within this ministry to focus on sports and youth development separately. This (formation of two separate departments) has already been done by Government of India. Both departments should be headed by an official of Secretary rank.
- 28.3. A State Youth Commission should be constituted in order to guide and assist in implementation and oversight of the various initiatives of Youth Development Ministry.
- 28.4. District Youth Office should be established at each district level in order to coordinate all the initiatives concerning youth. This should be based on the pattern of existing District Sports Officer.
- 28.5. The "State Youth Award Scheme" given earlier by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare for exceptional youth at state level should be restarted. This "State Youth Award" should be given to one male and one female youth at division and state level.
- 28.6. Ministry should ensure that this youth policy should be widely disseminated and shared with youth across the length and breadth of the state. Copies of this policy should be printed and disseminated in all schools, colleges, NGOs and youth wings of all political parties of the state.
- 28.7. A coordination committee comprising members of legislative assembly should be constituted in order to ensure smooth implementation of all the schemes formulated for youth.
- 28.8. A task force should be constituted in order to study and review all existing schemes initiated, by state and union government, for employment and self-employment generation should be undertaken. This task force should

- also recommend improvements in the same and new schemes if necessary.
- 28.9. At least one-third members of youth clubs should be female youth. This should be mandatory for all the registered youth clubs.
 - 28.10. In accordance with the Lingdoh Committee recommendations, open elections should be conducted in all educational institutions and universities.
 - 28.11. District Youth Centers should identify gaps in existing programs of Nehru Yuva Kendra, programs of other departments and NGOs and conduct programs in these directions. District level advisory committee should be formed with representations from youth clubs, NGOs working with youths.
 - 28.12. Department of Youth Affairs should constitute a committee for which minister of youth affairs and sports will be the president and officers of Nehru Yuva Kendra, National Service Scheme, National Cadet Course and Scout Guide Organization working on issues of youth. The committee will coordinate for implementation of the policy.
 - 28.13. An inclusive awareness campaign should be organized on health issues of youth with NGOs.
 - 28.14. NGOs should be encouraged and supported to start De-addiction centers.
 - 28.15. Single window information system should be developed for youth to avail information about schemes and programs under different ministries and departments.
 - 28.16. A state level residential youth training center should be started with the capacity of training 200 youth. This center will avail infrastructure for training on values enshrined in the policy.
 - 28.17. Government should publish Youth Development Report in every 3 years.
 - 28.18. A detailed manual should be published by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for youth clubs to guide for functioning and annual plan of the ministry.

ANNEXURE (II) : FLOW CHART



ANNEXURE (III) : DRAFT CORE TEAM

Convener - Mrs. Supriya Sule

Coordination - Mr. Nilesh Puradkar

**Members - Mrs. Lata Narayan
Mr. Kaustubh Devle
Mr. Datta Balsaraf
Mr. Nilesh Raut**

Mr. Mathew Mattam
Dr. R. R. Shinde
Mr. Vishwas Thakur
Mr. Mahendra Rokade

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Mr. Sanjay Patil
Advt. Aseem Sarode

Dr. Anand Bang
Mrs. Anita Pagare
Mr. Dilip Pandhanpatte

Special Thanks -

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Mr. Vijay Kanhekar
Mr. Bhagwan Kesbhat
Dr. Amit Nagare

Dr. Anand Karandikar
Mr. Dinesh Shinde
Dr. Anwar Shaikh

Partner Organisations -

- T.I.S.S.
- Yuva-Mumbai
- Anubhav Shiksha Kendra-Nirmala Niketan Mahavidyalaya
- Coro-Mumbai
- C.Y.D.A.- Pune
- Navnirman- Mumbai
- Vishwas Dnyan Prabodhini And Research Institute- Nasik
- Adhyudaya Foundation- Aurangabad
- PIMSE
- Mahatma Gandhi Seva Sangh
- Chalo Yuva Kuch Kar Dikhave
- Rasikashray
- Yuva Hit
- Youth to Youth
- C.C.D.T.
- Bharari Group
- Kashish Foundation
- Hanuman Wyayamshala- Amaravati

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**Maharashtra State Youth Policy Declaration
Draft for Consultation**

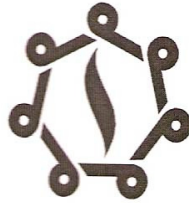
Presented to,

**Hon'ble Chief Minister
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Minister (Sports & Youth Affairs)
State Minister (Sports & Youth Affairs)
Maharashtra State**

Presented by,

**Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai
Navmaharashtra Yuva Abhiyan**

Saturday, 8th August 2009



I believe that future of the nation is secured with young generation. Because, youth have great sense of social realities. They demonstrate capacity to work with enthusiasm, honesty and commitment. All it needs is right opportunity

-Hon'ble Yashwantrao Chavan